**What makes a war Unwinnable?**

**Area of Interaction:** Health and Social Education

Some Background Check:

Why did America and Nato Forces get involved in Afghanistan Anyway?

Study the Newspaper Article from the Guardian “ Afghanistan War winnable……”

Who is Bob Ainsworth and what does he believe about the war?

Look at the diagram of poll results. What is it saying?

Does this back up what is being said in the text?

What is your opinion and why do you have this opinion?

Afghanistan war winnable, says defence secretary as British toll climbs

[guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk/), Monday 17 August 2009

Bob Ainsworth defends mission as MoD figures show more UK soldiers injured in Afghanistan this year than in whole of 2008

The war in [Afghanistan](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/afghanistan) is "winnable", the defence secretary, [Bob Ainsworth](http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/bob-ainsworth), insisted today, as new figures showed that more British soldiers have been injured in the country this year than in the whole of 2008.

"The troops know that we've made progress in the last few months, and I still firmly believe that Afghanistan is winnable," Ainsworth told the BBC during a round of interviews this morning to argue the case for the campaign, amid an apparent growing mood of public scepticism in Britain as the death toll among British troops reached 204.

Ministry of Defence statistics showed that 94 soldiers were injured in action in Afghanistan during July, more than double the number in June. Twenty-two soldiers were killed in July, compared with four in June.

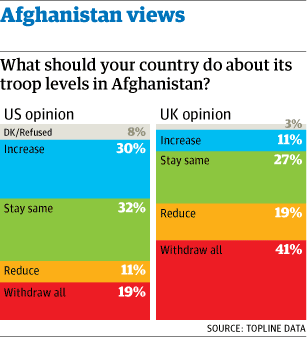
So far this year, 236 troops have been hurt in the fighting, compare with 235 during all of last year.

General Sir Richard Dannatt, the outgoing head of the army, said today that his troops were facing a "difficult and dangerous operation" in Afghanistan, but insisted: "We will succeed, we must succeed."

Speaking at the official opening of an army recovery centre in Scotland, he added: "It's a war about the people in Afghanistan. In particular we need to persuade the people in Afghanistan to support their government."

The increased death toll among UK troops has been caused in large part by a move by [Taliban](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/taliban)-allied insurgents away from direct battles with foreign troops in favour of planting increasingly powerful roadside bombs.

With a poll showing yesterday that two-thirds of British people believed UK forces should leave the country, the government faces pressure to explain why the sacrifice is necessary.

He responded to [newspaper criticism](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1206963/Afghanistan-sorted-year-204-dead-heroes-clueless-minister.html) of comments he made yesterday, when he suggested that British troops would be able to hand over more responsibility to local troops within the next year. "I'm afraid it is becoming almost impossible to say anything without it being taken out of context and twisted," he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme, explaining that he had been responding to misrepresentation of remarks by Sir David Richards, the new head of the army.

"It was being said that he claimed we were going to be in Afghanistan for 40 years. I said that was ludicrous and that I thought that over the next couple of years we could make progress, that increasingly the Afghan national army would be at the forefront of this fight and that we could concentrate on training and mentoring, and that that would grow as part of our role in Afghanistan."

While calling "ridiculous" the suggestion that Britain could be militarily involved in Afghanistan for up to 40 years, Ainsworth said the Afghan government would need financial and other support "for many, many years to come".